Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

232 *Equine Contagious Disease.*—In February, sudden deaths amongst the hackney carriage horses occurred, and, as a result of post-mortems, African horse sickness was suspected. By taking prompt precautionary measures, the disease was confined to Crater. Nine deaths were recorded.

Three segregation camps for cattle are being constructed, two at Sheikh Othman and one at Maala.

Fisheries

226 Fishing is, generally speaking, good, but the quantity of fish caught is greatly influenced by the movements of the different species of sardinella on which the large species feed. Shark, barracuda, horse-mackerel, sea-perch, dolphins, the smaller members of the tunny family, rock cod soles, and mullet are the principal edible fish. Sword or sail fish make their appearance at certain seasons of the year, but are not easily saleable for human consumption. Crabs and crawfish are to be had at all seasons, and oysters are available in the winter months. The fishermen are a very industrious people and employ various kinds of nets as well as hand-lines in their work. The nets used are of the stationary, circular throwing, and drag varieties, the latter being used from the shore. In addition a special net is operated from boats working in pairs during the monsoon period. Throwing nets for mullet, mackerel and a form of whitebait are also in use. The catch is at times greater than the requirements for local consumption, and the surplus is salted for export. Shark is almost invariably treated in this manner, and during some seasons large quantities are dried. Whitebait is exported.

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The fishermen are subject to certain rules which forbid trawls and limit the size of nets, and in addition they defer to the judgment of their elected Akils in matters of fishing custom.

228 Licences to dive for pearls both in the harbour and in the waters of Perim are obligatory, but no licences are required to fish.

Salt

258 A salt work was first constructed by the Italian firm of Messrs. Gaustalla and Company (now styled The Aden Salt Works) in the year 1885, and it carries on a profitable business in salt production at Sheikh Othman. This was followed by the salt work constructed in 1909 by the Bombay firm of Messrs. Abdullabhoy and Joomabhoy Lalljee and Company. Two more salt works have since been constructed by Messrs. Hajeebhoy Laljee and Company and the Little Aden Salt Industrial Company in May, 1923, and October, 1927, respectively, and they continue to work successfully. The 439 total quantity of salt exported to India and other places during 655 the last year was 230,379 tons. The monopoly of salt for local consumption is in the hands of Government, who have licensed certain pits to Arabs at Sheikh Othman.

4:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

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258 local consumption, and the surplus is salted for export. Shark
226 is almost invariably salted for export and during some seasons large quantities are dried. Whitebait are exported.

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The Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act passed by the Indian Legislature in 1931 and since extended to April, 1938, has benefited the Aden salt industry, which under the protection of the duty supplies about two-thirds of the total salt imports into India.

Dhow Building.

396 Dhows are built at Maala by a number of Hadhrami mer-
505 chants settled in Aden. They turn out about seven vessels a year, the average carrying capacity of which is about 200 tons. The dhows are constructed of Indian teak from the Malabar coast and are well built and fast. They sail to India (Bombay and Malabar coast) and to the East African coast as well as to neighbouring Arabian ports, and take a large share in local trade, in spite of the competition of the coasting steamers of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers and of Monsieur A. Besse (Halal Shipping Company).

Soap Manufacturing.

388 A soap manufacturing industry started by Monsieur A. Besse
439 in December, 1932, at Maala is progressing satisfactorily. The soap is manufactured by boiling coconut oil and cold processes. Local labour of 40 men is employed. The output is about 50 cases daily, each case containing 200 cakes which are disposed of locally or exported to the Red Sea ports.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm/

654 226 grounds which could be worked profitably by larger power craft. Experiments with outboard motors on dugout canoes have been moderately encouraging, and it is hoped that a method of mounting one particular model through a central trunk, which is now being tested, will provide a small power craft suited to the fishermen's needs. The larger planked beach-boats or sambuks have much greater possibilities. The Colony has bought a 9-h.p. diesel engine and installed it in the sambuk of a leading fisherman, on hire-purchase terms. After five months he is very pleased with it, although the installation is not yet wholly satisfactory.

[464] In general the introduction of mechanical power to the Aden fishermen presents many problems. There is an acute shortage of carpenters and mechanics capable of installing engines but plenty of self-styled experts ready to damage both engine and boat. Then, when an installation is complete, it must be placed in the hands of an illiterate with no mechanical knowledge whatsoever, beyond what the engineman of the fishery vessel and the Fishery Officer have been able to teach him since he accepted the loan. Once the sambuk owners have become used to engines, it should be possible greatly to reduce the labour of working their nets by installing winches, and thereby enable them to dispense with some of their at present uneconomically large crews.

Attempts to find productive grounds with the fishery vessel proved abortive, as the sein winch-drive broke in May and the necessary parts did not arrive in Aden until December. Two encouraging shots of mixed sea perch were made in Ghubbet al Haikah, 70 miles from Aden, before the mishap occurred, however, so it is to be hoped that this and other grounds will be found to hold fish during 1951. The use of craft of this size could only be undertaken in conjunction with cold storage in Aden, as the landing of a full cargo would temporarily glut the market. The craft themselves would have either to carry ice or else to be fitted with refrigeration. Such an undertaking would be outside the scope of any but the largest Aden firms, unless the cold store belonged to a separate concern.

In order to estimate the potential market for quick-frozen fish with the shipping calling at Aden, the Fishery Officer and the Harbour Master drafted and circulated a questionnaire on the subject. This revealed a monthly demand for approximately 15 tons which would be open to a concern equipped with modern cold storage, over and above what could be sold ashore to the people of Aden.

● 228 439 In addition to the trade in fresh fish, the Colony of Aden is the centre of a considerable entrepôt trade in cured fish, a great part of the total catch from the south coast of Arabia, the southern Red Sea and Somaliland being brought by dhow for the exporting merchants, who store it in godowns on islands in the harbour. Their principal market is Colombo, but large quantities go to East Africa. The Aden Port Trust records a total of nearly 120,000 cwts. of dried and salted fish as having left Aden in 1949 : the 1950 returns are not yet available.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MMI Aden mm1

The Island of Perim was visited early in 1950, when a good haul of sharks was made by the fishery vessel. Shark lines have been lent to the inhabitants, but the poorness of their boats, the bad weather and the roughness of the bottom led to the loss of many hooks. The Administrator of Perim has been granted funds to provide a motor sambuk during 1951, of which the Perim water-plant foreman will be engineman.

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OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

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There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

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Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

Lorries are owned in small fleets by merchants and contractors; conversely, the 60 buses are almost all in individual ownership. Taxis are in small ownership, and mainly driven by Somalis.

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As an example of the diverse nationality of business ownership in Aden, the following are the main concerns and the nationality of their proprietors:

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Salt Works	Italian, Indian
Soap Works	French
Dyeing and Printing	French, Indian
Aluminium Factory	Indian
Shipping Agencies	British, Indian, French
Ship-owning	British, French, Arab, Indian

There are no co-operative societies.

Aden has no agriculture, forests or mines. Animal husbandry is confined to the keeping of a few hundred cows for dairy purposes.

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7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1
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ADEN COLONY

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Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken. There is a small police detachment in the island together with medical and lighthouse staff.

A 206

Up to the end of 1948, Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication with Perim by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

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The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent.

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The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

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The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari' a code of Muslim law is recognised, especially in the Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Qu'aiti K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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There are two local government bodies in the Colony: the larger is known as the Fortress Township Authority and the area governed embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population estimated to be 70,000. This area includes the Military and the R.A.F. establishments. The other is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed includes this Township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages whose inhabitants number approximately 2,500.

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In 1949 the principle of election was first introduced into the constitution of the Fortress Township Authority, so as to provide three elected members in addition to the existing four nominated official and three nominated unofficial members. In Crater ward there were elections, resulting in the success of one Arab merchant and one Pakistani advocate who was previously a nominated member of the Authority. In the other ward objections were raised against two Arab candidates, who were found not to be of British birth, and a

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

each boat for purchasing boats and gear, and maintenance of the crew. In repayment the exporters take as much fish as they can from the fishermen indebted to them. Despite the frequent disagreements over the value of fish caught, few *nakhoodas* ever get free of debt.

There are no fish factories but salting is carried out by seven Arab exporters, who sell most of the fish to Ceylon. A small fish-meal plant was installed by one merchant in 1951. Sardines, anchovies and shrimps are sun-dried and bagged by these exporters in the winter months. There is one ice factory in Indian hands; some of its production is utilised for fish boxes in the markets. A cold store in British hands has not been successfully used for fish storage owing to difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of fish.

Statistics of fishermen, boats and fishing gear and exports of dried and salted fish are given on page 26.

Marketing

Marketing of fish is done generally through a single auctioneer in each of the markets. Unofficial auctioneers exist who take about 12½ per cent of the selling price. In order to control as large a share as possible of the fish passing through their hands the auctioneer lends money to fishermen against the sole right to auction their fish. Fishermen who are not indebted are free to sell to any stall-holder or rent a stall for themselves but the fact that unofficial auctioneers offer ready cash results in most of the fish passing through an agent's hands.

Fluctuating supply and demand make it impossible to give reliable figures for the average price of fish but observation shows that about 70 per cent of the price paid by the consumer goes to the fishermen, 12 per cent to the auctioneer and 18 per cent to the stallholder.

The amount of fish taken to market is normally insufficient for the needs of the populaton except in the summer months when gluts are common.

Events affecting Production

The production of fish in 1951 was below normal particularly during the summer monsoon. This is attributed to the lack of strong winds and poor upswelling of cold water which normally drives fish to the warmer coastal water. Shoals of sardine were present early in December, 1951, off the Colony and moved slowly eastwards during January and February, 1952. Large yields were obtained and fresh and dried sardines were plentiful in the markets.

The summer monsoon of 1952 was a strong one and the majority of sambuk-owners did very well. The water temperature was 69°F on one occasion and fish normally living in rocks 15 miles out were caught in great numbers inshore. The shrimp and anchovy season was generally bad and few sardines had appeared by the end of 1952.

Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department comprises one Fisheries Officer, one

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established to supply the local market—for the processing of soaps, pressed aluminum utensils, cigarettes, pottery and textiles, the extraction of sesame oil, the cutting of buttons from trochas shells and the building of dhows. Fishing is of potential importance, but its development is handicapped by primitive methods of procurement and handling and inadequate local transport facilities. The agricultural resources of the Colony are limited to market gardens and date groves on the oasis of Sheikh Othman.

Agriculture and fishing are the principal occupations of the tribesmen of the Protectorate. The fisheries of the eastern districts are reputed to be among the richest in the Middle East, while the drying and salting of fish and the manufacture of fish oils, fodder and manure are valuable industries in the coast towns. A large proportion of the people in Western Aden Protectorate and the Hadhramaut engage in agriculture, although the tribes of the steppe country are mainly nomadic pastoralists. The expansion of farming is curtailed by uncertain rainfall and shortage of water supply. In the Eastern Aden Protectorate, cultivation is restricted mainly to the middle portions of the Hadhramaut valley, where the river flows for part of the year. This region is historically famous as a source of frankincense and myrrh. Elaborate terracing and irrigation are employed in many areas for the conservation and the utilization of the limited water resources available. It was estimated in 1948 that less than 0.5 per cent of the total land area was suitable for farming, but the relative extent of pasturage and desert has not been determined. Systems of peasant ownership, tenancy farming and tribal land tenure prevail in different localities. The improvement of agriculture and expansion of irrigation are prominent among the development programs for the Protectorate. A co-operative project for the cultivation of cotton and other crops by modern methods has recently been initiated on 5,000 acres in the Abyan area in Western Aden Protectorate. Little

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ably meager. The basic foods are usually breads, dates and milk products, supplemented by vegetables and fruits in season and by varying amounts of meat and fish. Although breads are most frequently prepared from sorghum millet (durra), other forms of millet, as well as maize, wheat and barley are widely used. Rice is generally popular, and large amounts are imported. Dates constitute one of the main food items throughout this region; date palms flourish along some wadies, but the annual crop is inadequate. Numerous types of vegetables and fruits are available in the agricultural areas.

Sheep and goats are raised in both the Colony and the Protectorate. Their milk is used extensively, but only the pastoral tribes are apt to have a sufficient supply. Cow's milk is also consumed in the Colony and in some inland districts, particularly in Western Aden Protectorate, where the grazing conditions are suitable for cattle. Camel's milk is a staple food among certain Bedouin tribes. Ghee, or clarified butter, is employed in the wealthier families. The fat from the tail tissues of the local breed of sheep, which is an important substitute in the Colony and among the eastern tribes, is almost unknown in Western Aden Protectorate. Sesame is cultivated in many areas, and the oil constitutes another source of fats. Meat is seldom consumed more than once a week, except in the more prosperous households. Fish are plentiful along the coast, and both fresh and dried fish are commonly used in the diet.

Housing

Several different types of dwellings are found in Aden Colony. In general, the standards of housing are higher than in the neighboring territories. All variations are encountered between the multistoried stone houses of the wealthy Arabs, the modern style villas of the European and official communities, and the one- or two-story structures of stone or mud brick in which most of the people live. Regardless